

ents from twelve to fifteen miles east and west of here, had observed and mentioned their flight. Although their course was precisely in that direction, Prof. Forbes, of the State Normal Museum, writes that "no observations had been made there regarding the migrating of this insect," and he kindly identified the last named species for me; however both have been carefully looked up and identified as being separate, by other well informed Entomologists, all agreeing with me that the above names are correct.

Whether their migrating was instinctive, or forced by the Manitoba wave, then reported in Chicago papers as having arrived in that direction, after a spell of very warm weather; or caused by the dry season, the ponds having become so exhausted as to afford no pasturage for their larvæ, seems a matter of conjecture; most likely the latter, however, as the cold wave reached here but very slightly.

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#### NOTES ON LAST YEAR'S COLLECTING.

BY J. ALSTON MOFFAT, HAMILTON, ONT.

No one I think can have been long engaged in collecting insects without having noticed the remarkable diversity in the products of different years, not only in quantity, but in kinds. Each summer seems to bring its own particular species to the front, so that if a person wishes to get a moderately correct idea of the insects of any locality, it is necessary for him not only to hunt diligently all the season, but every season for a considerable length of time; and if he has from any cause missed one, he may be sure he has missed something which it may be years before he will again have an opportunity of securing, or securing in the same abundance. The causes of these variations seem as yet to a great extent a mystery.

Insect hunting could not be said to be good in this locality last summer. It might be considered very poor, yet it produced its new things for the collection, and some things in plenty which had hitherto been scarce. On the 12th of May I came across some specimens of a *Pieris* which I thought were poor specimens of *oleracea*, but which Mr. Edwards determined to be *Virginensis*. On the 23rd I took a very attractive *Chryso-mela*, which is in the Society's Coll. in London as *C. labyrinthica*, but which the authorities say is *multiguttis* of Crotch's Check List, of which

*scalaris* is a synonym. Rather remarkable, surely, that so handsome and distinctly marked an insect should not have a name of its own. Its season lasted about four weeks, during which I secured over a dozen. I took one specimen of *Stenosphenus notatus* Oliv. Of this species I captured in May, 1879, three specimens, the first I ever took, and that year, a week or two previous to my captures, I received from Mr. Reinecke, of Buffalo, a pair labelled Dallas, Texas. They are exactly similar. The Cerambycidae were ten days later than usual this year. *Goes debilis* was numerous, and I took my first and only specimen of *S. pulcher*. *Saperda discoidea*, although never plentiful, is interesting from the great difference in size and markings of the sexes. I had always found two or three females to one male until last season, when the males were most numerous. There were several species of *Leptura* quite common, especially *vibex*, which I had not seen before. *Gaurotes cyanipennis* was in great abundance, but although you could bring a dozen down with one stroke, you might not secure more than two or three, they were so quickly on the wing again. The months of July and August were barren of anything worthy of note. In the second week of September the fall moths began to appear, and up to the end of October were quite plentiful. Those attractive genera, *Scopelosoma* and *Lithophane*, were more fully represented than I had seen them since the fall of 1877, when I took eight or ten species for the first time. A few *S. Graefiana* and *L. Bethunei* can be found every year, but *Scopelosoma Pettiti* and *ceromatica*, and *Lithophane semiusta*, *pexata*, *signosa*, *petulca*, *querquera*, are rare. Some of these choicer species were easily secured again last fall. I also took one new to me, *L. ferrealis*, whilst a friend here, Mr. J. Johnston, took *S. tristigmata* and *L. cinerosa*, which we were enabled to identify through the kindness of Mr. R. Thaxter, of Cambridge, Mass. Mr. Kyle, of Dundas, secured *L. Georgii*, which I have not yet met with. It may be worthy of note that Mr. Johnston took a specimen each of *Plusia striatella* and *Charocampa tersa*, the first taken here of either species.

Mr. Thaxter kindly determined the following for me :

Dryopteris rosea,	Hadena Miselioides,
Limacodes inornata,	Dianthoecia meditata,
Gortyna cerina,	Orthodes cynica,
Calledapteryx dryopterata,	Paristichtis perbellis,
Mamestra eloniplina.	

The last four were taken the previous year at Long Point.